

December 2013 Edition:

“The Matrix Flyer”

Hi Everyone,

It has been a very long winter and we hope that by the time December arrives the weather gets warmer. This month's newsletter includes lots of news about things that are happening for older lesbians so we hope to see you there.

We wish all Matrix members a fun holiday season with lots of good food and merriment.

Gatherings & Social Events



End of Year Celebration Afternoon Tea

Bring musical instruments, games and perhaps a bit of cake to share at our next afternoon tea. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided (gold coin donation)

When: Saturday December 14th, from 1.30 – 4pm

Venue: Jika Jika Community Centre
Corner Plant and Union Street, Northcote. (Melways Map 30, F11)

How to get there:

Tram - No. 86 Stop No. 27 Bus – No. 506

Train - Westgarth Train Station

Boxing Day Picnic

The *Lavender Ladies* walking group is holding a Boxing Day Picnic on December 26th. Matrix members are warmly invited. BYO food, drinks, folding chairs.

Where: Hays Paddock, East Kew (Melways Map 45, J1)

Meet at the BBQ near the car park.

When: 12.00 noon



Go Nordic!



Scandinavians know how to make good knitwear.

They make even better social policy.

The Nordic Model is a progressive approach to prostitution policy. It decriminalises people in prostitution but criminalises the buying of sex. The Nordic Model aims to promote gender equality and end violence against women.

Four Australian States and Territories have recently re-evaluated their prostitution legislation but none have considered this new approach. It's time to look at the benefits of going Nordic.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE NORDIC MODEL AT OUR FEMINIST TRIVIA NIGHT AND Q&A.

WHEN: Tuesday 3rd December 2013, 6pm - 7:30pm

WHERE: Linkway Room, 4th Floor, John Medley Building, The University of Melbourne

Join us on the night for the launch of a new report, *Demand Change: Understanding the Nordic Approach to Prostitution*, from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Australia.

Drinks, snacks and feminist theory provided free of charge.

Auditions for Lesbian Theatre

Calling Older Women Performers – Midsumma Festival Play

“The L Wing” is a 30 minute play set in a lesbian nursing home. Sal, a 70 –year-old heart breaker is convinced a new nursing home resident, Andi, is the one that got away. If only Andi could remember her. The writer/director, Belinda Bannerman, is currently **calling an open audition** for the role of **Maddie**, Sal’s loyal friend, who’s torn between protecting Sal and letting Sal risk getting her heart broken.

If you are aged around the wonderful years of 60ish+, have a keen interest in women’s theatre and queer issues, and feel like it’s time to let your acting talent shine, this might be the role for you. Performance experience is desired, but not essential. CREW ROLES also need to be filled.

AUDITIONS TO BE HELD Friday, 6th December.

Location to be advised – in Moreland area.

Please contact Belinda at bel_kc@hotmail.com or ring 0448-226-449.

The audition will be a short, friendly and informal experience. Please contact Belinda to receive part of the script to read from.

Applicants must be available to begin rehearsals immediately, and through January.



COMEDY GALA: TIX ON SALE NOW

Whatever your plans are this summer, make sure you're back by 7:30pm Saturday 1st February 2014. Australia's finest & funniest gals, in a night of hilarious frivolity, will team up and tickle your gay jeans! Bring your girl, bring some pals, but don't miss out on this showcase of comic talent! This is the hottest event in Midsumma. **Warning: this show contains a lot of lesbians, and occasional gay friendly comedians!**

This is the Inaugural Lesbian Comedy Gala, held in the Northcote Town Hall, in the heart and soul of our lesbian 'hood. It's a not-to-be-missed chance to see your people on stage, in a night to remember.

Keep tuned on our websites, JoyFM and your lesbian gossip circles as more hot comedians come on board the 'Pride and Joy' Loveboat. *Produced by Monica Dullard of MonStar Productions and Anneke and Harry from Matrix.*

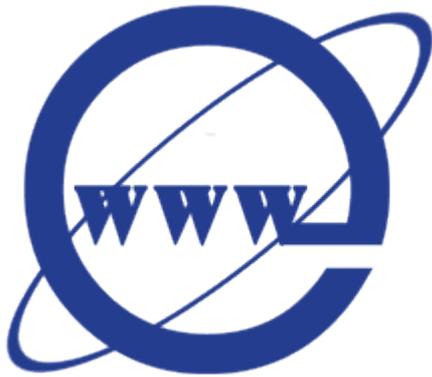
A fundraiser for the Matrix Guild of Victoria, supporting affordable housing for older lesbians.

Sponsored by City Fertility

Tickets: Full \$35 & Concession \$25.

On sale 28th November 2013 at

www.midsumma.org.au <<http://www.midsumma.org.au>> or
www.northcotetownhall.com.au
 <<http://www.northcotetownhall.com.au>> or 9481 9500



Launch of Dyke Books Inc Website –

A message from Jean

I love books. I love reading, writing, publishing and launching them. I started reading books from an early age, wrote my first book in primary school, began publishing my Emily George books in 1976 and Dyke Books Inc was established in 2008 to publish books by, for and about lesbians. Dyke Books Inc's first book, *Brazen Hussies: A Herstory of Radical Activism in the Women's Libration Movement in Victoria 1970 - 1979* was launched by Joan Kirner in 2009. The second book of the Women's Liberation Movement trilogy, *Stroppy Dykes: Radical Lesbian Feminist Activism in Victoria During the 1980s* was launched by Judy Small in 2012. And now we're poised to enter the 21st century.

With book shops increasingly unwilling to carry these printed books and in order to boost sales of *Stroppy Dykes*, as well as some of my old Emily George books, Pat Mitchell agreed to design and set up a **DYKE BOOKS INC WEBSITE**. This is, as you can imagine for someone like myself, a whole other world experience involving a sharp learning curve.

To celebrate, DYKE BOOKS INC invites you to the launch of the WEBSITE as well as the launch of the EBOOK and PDF versions of *Brazen Hussies*, which is out of print, and the EBOOK and PDF versions of two novels I wrote years ago:

Shannon, a lesbian romantic mystery

The Womyn's Revolution, a lesbian novel set in Melbourne in 1973.

When: Sunday 8 December, 2pm - 4pm

Where: 2 Piera Street Brunswick East (trams 1 and 8, tram stop 22).

Arvo tea will be provided and speeches will be made on the verandah.

All lesbians are welcome to attend and help celebrate this new internet adventure.

Jean Taylor



New Year's Eve party at SHEBAR



Hi! We may not get to see you before Xmas so we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Xmas and hope you all have a great day.

Our next SHEBAR is **NEW YEAR'S EVE** and to keep our nights happening for women we need to have your support for our nights to continue... click on the link below to print out the flyer.

http://www.shebar.org/flyers/SHEBAR_NYE2013.jpg

We have a fabulous new venue:-

"The Eureka Hotel"
Function Room
1 Church Street
RICHMOND

We will have 2 Dj's playing back to back and playing what you want to hear. We want to see your moves on the sunken Dance Floor!

- ❖ Meals available
- ❖ Pool table
- ❖ Full bar with great staff
- ❖ EFTPOS facilities
- ❖ Drink specials
- ❖ Transport at the front door
- ❖ Doors Open 9pm – 1am (meals available prior)

Special thanks to our Major Sponsors:-

- www.pinksofa.com.au
- lee@redhawk.com.au

Have a Safe & Merry Xmas thank you for your support in 2013. We look forward to seeing you on New Year's Eve to see in 2014!!!

Cheers,

Sharon, Andrea & The SHEBAR Team

PLEASE NOTE:
NO SHEBAR IN JANUARY RE NYE
NO SHEBAR IN FEBRUARY RE MIDSUMMA

Long Breast Press Book Launch

“Lesbians Write on: a Celebration of Contemporary Australian Lesbian Writing”



It was over two years from the time Ardy Tibby first suggested that Long Breast Press publish an anthology of lesbian writings to the launch of LBP's third book, *Lesbians Write On: a Celebration of Contemporary Australian Lesbian Writing*, at the Jika Jika Community Centre on 24 November 2013.

And what a wonderfully affirming launch it was with 24 lesbians and Robin Eagle's niece in attendance to help celebrate this amazing achievement, the first anthology of Australian lesbian writings in a number of years (although I would also recommend the on-line anthology *Jewish Lesbians Down Under* which is available on the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria's Website).

First of all, Pat Mitchell explained the way her audio loop worked, by everyone either holding or wearing it round their necks when they spoke, so she'd be able to hear what was being said. We then acknowledged and paid our respects to the Wurundjeri people and placed the Aboriginal flag in the centre of the circle. Ardy as the MC gave a brief background to the book, how the Long Breast Press collective had worked hard to bring her original idea to fruition and highlighted some of its salient features, like the distinctively creative cover photos by Meg Irwin, before she introduced the readers, Carole Anne, Claudia Huber, Robyn Peck, Wendy Suiter, Helen Lee and Barbary Clarke who read a selection of their poems and prose pieces from the book to much appreciation.

I did some more summing up of the book, read out the email Lavender had sent from her hospital bed in Lismore where she was recovering from a fall and thanked the 24 contributors for trusting us with their work, the six readers who had entertained us and everyone else who had helped make the anthology a possibility, including Alana Jones who did the design of the text and cover, Meg for her photos, Linc in Sydney, a SA collective and others who'd granted, loaned and donated money, BookPOD for printing and especially my fellow LBP collective members, Claudia, Barbary, Ardy and in absentia Rosalinda Rayne, whose cooperative efforts had made the process worthwhile. Ardy then reminded everyone to buy a book at \$20 a copy and we all officially launched the book by holding hands in the circle and doing three whooshes.

We had already made some serious inroads on the cheese, dips, biscuits, grapes and other savoury nibbles and after the official part of the proceedings we began eating the cakes, peach cobbler and chocolate ripple cake while we chatted and caught up with each other and Claudia and Barbary did a great job of selling the books.

Many thanks to all of the lesbians who joined us in helping to make the launch of this significant publication such a joyously celebratory occasion, we look forward to your feedback about the anthology in due course. For those who are looking for a great Summer Solstice and new year present you can order your copy of *Lesbians Write On* by contacting us on lbpress@amazonwarrior.org

Jean Taylor

Matrix News



Celebrate International Human Rights Day!



Human Rights are an issue that has been much in the Australian media of late, especially in relation to asylum seekers and same-sex marriage. International Human Rights Day is coming up on December 10th. The extract below is from the Australian Human Rights Commission website.

“December 10th is the anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations (UN) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR sets out a certain set of rights that are the basic and minimum set of human rights for all citizens.

Setting aside a day to commemorate, educate and reflect on the principles that form the UDHR means celebrating the rights we exercise everyday as Australians, and acknowledging that enjoying those rights carries with it the responsibility of promoting these rights for all people.

Things that many of us take for granted – such as the right to an education, the right to receive medical care, and the freedom to practice our chosen religion – are not equally available to all Australians and people in other parts of the world.

Many individuals and communities will be commemorating and celebrating December 10, and pledging a commitment to maintain and improve people’s human rights wherever possible.”

From November 25th to December 10th, the Commission is running a social media campaign called **16 Days**, which aims to raise awareness of the ongoing importance of striving to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Check it out on Facebook.

Read more about the work of the Australian Human Rights Commission and activities on December 10th at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au>

Mental Health Resources for lesbians – can you help?

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), Latrobe University needs more lesbians over the age of 34 to contribute to a research project. We are offering a cash reimbursement for taking part.

Depression and anxiety are common amongst Australians in general, but same-sex attracted persons are 2x as likely to experience anxiety and 3x as likely to experience depression as compared with the overall populations. They are also less likely to seek treatment, and when they do they report a higher level of dissatisfaction with the service they receive.

Recently, a large number of online self-help websites have been developed to help tackle anxiety and depression. These will continue to grow in prominence in the future, as they are clinically proven and cost effective. However such websites are targeted at the population in general- they do not take into account the needs and experiences of same-sex attracted persons, who may find themselves excluded. We have launched this research to understand what can be done to make these resources more appropriate for same-sex attracted persons.

The findings will be used to produce a toolkit, which will be made freely available to the developers of self-help software to promote the development of more inclusive programs. We hope that the outcome will be better health and wellbeing for same-sex attracted persons.



Taking part:

A key component of our study is to speak to same-sex attracted persons about what they think needs to be done to improve online resources. We are running 90 minute focus groups at ARCSHS to this end.

Participants do not need to have any experiences with mental health issues or know anything about anxiety or depression; the discussion will be of a very general nature about the broader needs of lesbians and the challenges that they face.

The best way to sign up to the focus groups or to get more info about the study is either online at www.mentalhealthstudy.org.au <<http://www.mentalhealthstudy.org.au>> or by calling Tom, the Research Officer running the project, on 9479 8765.



NEW COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Matrix committee, on behalf of many members, would like to express our sincere thanks to Sara Elkas who has been the backbone of Matrix since it began. For 21 years, Sara has served as an office bearer, fulfilling the roles of Treasurer, Secretary and Public Officer. Due to a recent diagnosis of ovarian cancer, she has resigned from these roles to focus on her health. She will remain on the committee, continuing to contribute in her quiet, gentle and consistent way, during her course of chemotherapy. Sara, we wish you and Shoshi much strength in combating those rogue cells.

Matrix's management committee would like to welcome some new members. It'll be exciting to have some fresh energy at our monthly meetings.

- **Pat Mitchell** joins us as a very competent Treasurer with her background as an accountant and her extensive IT skills.
- **Penny Abrahams** brings a wealth of experience to her role as Secretary from her previous work as a CEO for various not-for-profits.
- **Anna Cook** will continue as the Chair, with
- **Anneke as Vice Chair**, working on Housing and Aged Care presentations with Sue Leigh.
- **Margo van der Voort** will assist with Aged Care Training and has undertaken to keep the tea and games afternoons running at Jika Jika. She will take over organising these social events from Sue and Ardy.
- **Beth Matthews** will be leading the development of the Lesbian Volunteer Visitor Program.

A number of other women have taken on other tasks to help support the committee.

- **Sharon Stanton** will continue to organise our flagship fundraiser – the annual Satin and Silk Ball, with assistance from Anna Cook. Sharon resigned from the committee earlier in the year, but we welcome her return as the Satin and Silk organiser.
- **Linda Cusack** has agreed to apply her eye for detail to maintaining the membership database.
- **Rosemary Wealthy** has begun putting the Newsletter together with Sue and we really appreciate the attractive productions they've been creating each month. Thanks, Sharon and Andrea for all your previous work on the Newsletter.
- **Ardy Tibby and Gayle McPherson** initiated a very successful bi-monthly Games afternoon at Jika Jika.
- **Harry Grrl** has focussed some of her exuberance and ideas on initiating fun events as extra fundraisers for Matrix. The first, very popular Comedy Night was produced with Anneke and showcased the extraordinary talent of Monica Dullard. Inspired by this success, Monica, Anneke and Harry are working on a huge Lesbian Comedy Gala as part of Midsumma 2014.
- Harry was assisted by Beth and Anneke to create a Lesbian Speed Dating night, which raised funds for the Volunteer Visitor Program.
- **Lee Carter** continues to very competently manage our website.

MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW OVERDUE



Matrix membership fees were due on the 15th October. If you've already paid, please ignore this gentle reminder. If you haven't, please make the time now to help keep Matrix going. It's only \$15 concession and \$25 full. **Please renew your membership now if you'd like to continue receiving this newsletter.**

If you value the Matrix Flyer, the fact that we have Heather's Flats (affordable housing for older lesbians), that we conduct regular training sessions about lesbian-inclusive practice in Aged Care, that we're developing a lesbian volunteer visitor program and that we provide fun things do to like dances, games days, afternoon teas and comedy nights – then please help us keep these programs going. A little bit of cash from each of you is enough for us to continue to represent your interests, since we all volunteer our time.

But we don't just want you for your money. The more members we have, the more powerful our voice as a lobby group. We would love to be able to say that we have 1,000 members.

You can send a cheque or a money order to:

Matrix Guild of Victoria
PO Box 99
Fairfield, Vic 3078

OR pay directly into our bank account.

(Please use your name as a descriptor/reference so we know who deposited the money)

Matrix Guild Of Victoria Inc
Bendigo Bank, Preston
BSB: 633 000
ACCOUNT NO: 144 565 546
REF: your name

We have a lot of bouncing email addresses, so when you pay your membership dues, please also complete the attached membership form to make sure we can keep in to touch – or just send us an email with your updated details.

We will send out a hard copy to any members who don't have email, but this costs us in time, photocopying, envelopes and stamps. So please, if you do have an email address, let us know so that we can cross you off the snail mail list.

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 29th December. Please send news and snippets (we don't have room for stories and poems, sorry) to Rosemary at r.wealthy@bigpond.com

That's all until next month. Have a great December!

Happy Summer Solstice!



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